The Deployer

TC-AIMS II Supports Fort Bliss and Our Patriots!

By Tom Fleming, Project Manager/COI

TIS team members recently completed fielding operations in support of Ft. Bliss and resident units. Led by TIS Chief of Installation, Rich Wilson, eighteen (18) units were fielded during the four-month effort, to include four Active Duty Brigades as well as the Arizona and New Mexico STARCs. TC-AIMS II hardware and software suites were installed, as well as a server for local application operations.

One hundred thirty-seven (137) students were trained in the operation, maintenance and support of the TC-AIMS II program. Total hardware supported by this fielding effort included 111 laptops, 7 laptop servers (for deployment to theater), 1 Tower server for operation on Ft. Bliss, and 20 AIT suites. All hardware was delivered with Windows XP and the full suite of TC-AIMS II software, and was in compliance with the local DOIM requirements for LAN connectivity.

After all training was completed, a Deployment Exercise with participants from the 108th ADA BDE took place. This exercise is designed to simulate a real life scenario with a TPFDD to start the deployment process. This requires cooperation from several organizations within Forces Command (FORSCOM) and the Deployment Process Modernization Office at Ft. Eustis supplies expert personnel to advise and support units during the Deployment Exercise.

PM TIS provides an expert team of technical and functional personnel who plan, coordinate and facilitate the deployment scenario. Installation participants include, but are not limited to, the Company Unit Movement Officer, BN and BDE Unit Move Coordinators, as well as IMA, DOL and ITO deployment support representatives.

The fielding was a great success and Ft. Bliss is poised to transition from the legacy system, TCACCIS, to TC-AIMS II.

What made this a success? According to Rich Wilson, success began with the full cooperation of the Ft. Bliss Command and Staff and trickled down to the unit commanders. Command emphasis on appropriate personnel attending training classes also aided the planning process for the complete fielding.

The defining event in the fielding process was the completion of the Deployment Exercise. The enthusiastic and dedicated work of Ft. Bliss participants, along with guidance from our Team Lead, Fredrika Higgs, and others on our team, certainly made this exercise a bench mark for all other Deployment Exercises.

Photograph by Tom Fleming

Additional Fort Bliss photographs by Tom Fleming on Page 13 in this edition of The Deployer.

Kevin Williams, DST for 108th ADA BDE Ft. Bliss, TX:

"I appreciate the support that was provided Fort Bliss throughout the training, Deployment Exercise and actual fielding.

The Army is constantly changing and the systems that support it must evolve as well. TC-AIMS II is a very large step in that evolution, and will provide the Combatant Commander full ITV of everything he is moving through the transportation system and into the theater of operations.

The process of a unit centric deployment allows us the flexibility to use TC-AIMS II in every aspect of a deployment with limited restrictions to include training for the real thing. I eagerly wait the day when we can stand up TC-AIMS II on this Installation and make it the standard for deployment activities."

Message from the PM

Welcome to the fall edition of *The Deployer*. The old adage "the only thing constant is change" certainly holds true for us here at the program office. In the last edition of *The Deployer* we said goodbye to both our Director of Integrated Logistics Support and Fielding and our Project Manager. The new ILS and Fielding Director is Mr. Frank Taraborelli. Frank comes to us from PEO Soldier where he was the Assistant Product Manager Logistics for all Warrior programs within Program Manager Soldier Warrior (PM-SWAR). Welcome Frank! I don't expect a backfill for the PM position until sometime early next year.

Mr. Lee DeArmond, Acting PM

We completed a very successful Deployment Exercise (formerly Scenario Based Training Event) at Fort Bliss in September. The success was due largely in part to the great support from the folks at Fort Bliss. Block 2 training is underway at a number of National Guard Brigades in the Northwest, Tennessee and North Carolina. In the next few weeks we will begin initial coordination for fielding at Forts Carson, Stewart, and Riley.

On the development front, we are finishing up government acceptance testing of the latest maintenance build for TC AIMS II Block 2 and also an update to AALPS. Both of these should be available on the enterprise and in the mail by the time this edition goes to press. We are in the process of assessing the Block 3 delivery from the contractor. We are somewhat behind schedule, but our intent is to finish Development Testing prior to Thanksgiving and be ready for Operational Testing (OT) after the first of the year. Based on our discussions with the test community, OT will probably be in the February to March timeframe based on availability of a test unit.

While the vast majority of you are unaware of it occurring, the program office had a major success over the Columbus Day Weekend holiday. We successfully switched our enterprise operations from here in Springfield, VA to our second regional access node (RAN2) located in Maryland. The cutover was executed with very little disruption in operations. The cutover will allow us to do a number of things. First, we were able to demonstrate our ability to switch operations in case of a disaster. The after-action review will allow us to improve the next time we execute the cutover. Second, this will allow us to perform some much needed maintenance on RAN1 without impact to our external customers. Third, this helps set the stage for future enhancements when we establish a third RAN and begin to load balance our users across two or more RANs.

I hope that you find some information you can use in this edition of *The Deployer*. As always, if there is a topic you would like to see covered, please let us know. ☺

FIELDING SCHEDULE (OCT 2006)

By Ryan Hally, TIS Fielding Coordinator

This fielding sequencing is based on the June 2000 TC-AIMS II Army Order of Precedence (AOP) Power Projection Platforms (PPP) and Power Support Platforms (PSP), the BCT/SBCT transformation priorities, and estimated OPTEMPO. All activities are Block 2 fielding unless noted. Block 3 fielding will be integrated in FY07 based on a Block 3 fielding decision. Changes to funding, OPTEMPO or other DA directed actions may change this schedule. ⊛

Fielding Event	FC/GC	NMIB	Start	End
Northwest NG Fielding (Camp Murray) 81 HVY, 116 HVY, 41 IN	Complete	Complete	Oct-06	Dec-06
278 ACR (Campbell)	Complete	Complete	Oct-06	Dec-06
Fort Stewart	Complete	Nov-06	Jan-07	Jun-07
3ID (Benning/Stewart)	Complete	Nov-06	Jan-07	Jun-07
5th of 25ID (Benning)	Complete	Nov-06	Jan-07	Jun-07
155 HVY (Stewart)	Complete	Nov-06	Jan-07	Jun-07
48 HVY (Stewart)	Complete	Nov-06	Jan-07	Jun-07
Bragg Migration and 30 HVY	Complete	Complete	Feb-07	Mar-07
Fort Carson	Complete	Oct-06	Feb-07	Aug-07
43rd ASG (Carson)	Complete	Oct-06	Feb-07	Aug-07
3rd ACR (Carson)	Complete	Oct-06	Feb-07	Aug-07
4th ID (Carson)	Complete	Oct-06	Feb-07	Aug-07
Fort Riley	Complete	Nov-06	Mar-07	May-07
Fort Sill and 39 IN	Oct-06	Jan-07	Jun-07	Sep-07
USAREUR Block 3	Oct-06	Jan-07	Jun-07	Jul-07
Aberdeen Proving Grounds	Jan-07	Apr-07	Aug-07	Oct-07
207 IN (Alaska)	Jan-07	Apr-07	Aug-07	Oct-07
Fort McCoy and 1st HVY, 32 IN	Jan-07	Apr-07	Sep-07	Nov-07
Fort Hood Non Divisional Units 2	Feb-07	May-07	Oct-07	Dec-07
Fort Buchanan and 92 IN	May-07	Aug-07	Jan-08	Apr-08
SBCT #7 (5th of 21D-Lewis)	May-07	Aug-07	Jan-08	Apr-08
Fort Jackson and 218 HVY	Jun-07	Sep-07	Feb-08	May-08

For more information concerning the fielding process or scheduling information, please contact Greg Gibson at 703.752.0763, or email greg.gibson@us.army.mil or Tom Fleming at 703.752.0853, or email Thomas.fleming@us.army.mil.

technical tips

MSL Printing Problem Solutions

By John Molter, TIS Systems Integration Engineer

There is a solution for users printing MSLs using serial cables that are already fielded, but the tradeoff is that labels print at a slower rate. The good news is that the reliability is better.

TIS has investigated problems reported from the field where Military Shipping Labels (MSLs) cannot be printed reliably when printing multiple copies of a quantity of selected records. Tests were conducted using both the Zebra Z4M and Intermec PM4i label printers with similar problems when connecting the serial cable. Whether printing data from Enterprise, Client/Server, or Standalone environments, the serial cable could not handle the data throughput, resulting in a variety of behavioral problems including: 1. failure to print MSLs for all selected records, 2. failure to print the number of copies selected for the selected records, and 3. failure to print all of the required data on an MSL.

TIS looked at two solutions in an attempt to address the various laptop configurations that have been fielded. The solutions listed below provide for the use of serial cables and parallel cables.

Serial Cables
There is a solution for users printing MSLs using serial cables that are already fielded, but the tradeoff is that labels print at a slower rate. The good news is that the reliability is better. The serial cable cannot handle data throughput with the manufacture baud rate setting of 9600. As an example, we initially could only print 36 of 60 labels. However, when we lowered the baud rate from 9600 to 4800, we were able to print 60 complete labels. More tests were conducted with results as follows:

1200 baud rate–58 MSL labels @ 2 copies each=116 labels printed in 14 minutes

2400 baud rate–56 MSL labels @ 2 copies each=112 labels printed in 6 minutes.

You can see that slowing down the data throughput rate increases reliability but slows down the rate of printing.

Parallel Cables
Tests were performed using a parallel cable connecting the laptop and the label printer. Our most stressful test had these results: 306 records were selected with 4 copies of each record resulting in 1,224 MSLs printing without discrepancies. By comparison, one can easily see that the parallel cable out-performs the serial cable. The procedures for setting up the parallel cable are as follows:

technical tips

A. Steps for Reconfiguring the Intermec PM4i for Parallel Port Operations on the front panel of the Intermec PM4i

1. Press "Setup."
2. Enter "1138" as the password. Press "Enter."
3. Using the "F3" key, navigate to "Miscellaneous."
4. Press the "F4" key–"Input Port" displays.
5. Press the "F4" key again.
6. If "Parallel" does not display, press the "F3" key until it does.
7. Press "Enter."
8. Press "F2" until "ZSIM 5.11 Parallel" displays. (ZSIM 5.11 is in the latest patch.)

B. Steps for Reconfiguring the Zebra Z4M for Parallel Port Operations

1. Simply insert the parallel cable connection.
2. Reconfiguration is not required.

C. Steps to change the Laptop Printer Port Setting to Parallel (LPT1) from the Windows Menu.

1. Select "Start-> Settings-> Printers and Faxes."
2. Find/select your printer (PM4i or Z4M), and right click mouse on it.
3. Select "Properties" from the menu that appears.
4. From the "Properties" window, select the "Ports" tab.
5. Select the "LPT" port (1, 2, or 3) attached to the label printer.
6. Select "Apply" and "OK."
7. Close the "Properties" window. ☻

For users with Dell D810 laptops that have no parallel ports but do have USB ports, a USB to Parallel Printer Adapter cable can be used.

Intermec PM4i   Zebra Z4M

technical tips

Subscription Service

By Johanna Curry, TIS Configuration Management

JPMO-TIS is proud to launch this service in an effort to expedite delivery of critical updates to the user community at large.

JPMO-TIS has established the TIS Subscription Service on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) (see page 7) as a repository for files, updates, patches and notices for our fielded products. Updates will be posted regularly and users who register for the TIS Subscription Service will receive e-mail notification from the TIS Help Desk when new products are available for download. Registration is free and can be requested by contacting the TIS Help Desk. When you receive an e-mail notice of new updates, just click the included link, log in to AKO, and browse to the update folder you need. Refer to the screenshot for what you can expect to see.

So what should a user outside the Army do?

Users who do not already have AKO accounts can request sponsorship by TIS. (Your request can be made when you request subscription via the TIS Help Desk at 1.866.TCAIMS2 (1.866.822.4672) or DSN number: 221.5000.) AKO account sponsorship offers the user access to the TIS Subscription Service. Your new account can be configured to send automatic notification whenever new files are posted to the repository.

The TIS Subscription Service is currently populated with a patch for the Sun Java Runtime Environment (JRE) and Java Software Development Kit (SDK) applicable to all fielded versions of the TIS Suite. In addition, Subscription Service users will find an updated replacement TIS Reference Data segment for users of TIS Suite 3.02.001.09.03.05/4.3.4.1. The segment contains reference data culled from a number of authoritative sources and should be applied by TIS System Administrators planning to move from Enterprise to any non-Enterprise mode. The Reference Data segment will be published monthly. The TIS Subscription Service also contains updated Intermec PM4i drivers for AIT label printing as well as a detailed set of instructions for performing the upgrade. Each update will also be accompanied by a release note with instructions for downloading and applying the files to your software.

The TIS Subscription Service has been configured to house tailored V3 data pulled from the Enterprise to be used in any non-Enterprise mode or in case the Enterprise is unavailable. A subscribed UAM will be permitted to download V3 exports containing the latest UICs, asset and plan data for seamless continuity of operations away from the Enterprise.

technical tips

Transportation Control Number (TCN) Construction

By Bill Dunn, TIS Functional Analyst

The TCN is a 17-character data element assigned to each shipment unit for control and management throughout the transportation pipeline. TC-AIMS II automatically generates the unit move format TCNs for equipment (cargo) items based on required fields entered by the user in TC-AIMS II Asset Management and Movement Planning Business Process Areas (BPAs). The TCN construction is service specific as described in the following table. ☺

TCN Construction				
TCN Position	**Army**	**Navy**	**USMC**	**Air Force**
1	Service code –A– system generated.	Service code –N– system generated.	Service code –M– system generated.	Service code –F– system generated.
2-8	UIC with $ in position 8.	ULN with $ in unused spaces		
9-10	9th position "0" 10th position is the most significant digit of the SUN	Service use: system generated – "00".		Deployment Echelon
11-14	The remaining 4 digits of the Shipment Unit Number (SUN)	Serial Number – This is a system generated serialized number that bears no relationship to the equipment serial number.		Increment number is the Increment ID in TC-AIMS II
15	Unit Cargo TCN Indicator –"0"– system generated.			
16-17	Split/partial shipment or complete shipment unit indicator – system generated.			

Help Desk Toll-Free Number!

Have questions about TIS applications? Contact us via our toll-free line, DSN number or email address:

**1.866.TCAIMS2 (1.866.822.4672)
or DSN number: 221.5000 or e-mail:
tishelpdesk@eis.army.mil**

technical tips

Transportation Control Number (TCN) Construction, continued ...

In order to properly generate/create the TCN, check the following Business Process Areas to ensure the required data from the table above in the bolded fields has been entered. It is assumed the user has permissions as outlined below: ☺

System Administration	
Sub Process Area	**Description of Requirement**
Manage Job Profiles	Job Profiles must include "Write" permissions to Asset Management and Movement Planning.
Manage User Profiles	Preference Units and Assigned UIC data must represent the assets for which the TCNs are being generated.

Asset Management	
Sub Process Area	**Description of Requirement**
Asset Management Manage Equipment/General Tab	**Army User:** When a new equipment asset is added, the system prompts the user to generate a **SUN**. Click "Yes" to generate an original **SUN** for the item.
Asset Management Manage Equipment/General Tab	**Air Force User:** Enter a Deployment Echelon value in the "Deploy Echelon" field. Enter an increment number: From the TC-AIMS II Menu Bar slect "Edit->Replace," browse to the "Increment ID" field, and enter the increment number value.

Movement Planning	
Sub Process Area	**Description of Requirement**
Movement Plan Create UDL	**Ensure ULN/s are assigned to all assets.**

Movement Coordination	
Sub Process Area	**Description of Requirement**
No special requirements.	

Movement Execution	
Sub Process Area	**Description of Requirement**
No special requirements.	

Warning!

By Steve McNeil, Security Manager

TC-AIMS II Breakaway Configuration is NOT Approved for Wireless Use on the NIPRNet

The TIS JPMO has become aware that some TIS breakaway platforms have wireless network capability. TC-AIMS II is not accredited for NIPRNet connection with wireless networking. Using TC-AIMS II on wireless enabled information systems (IS), i.e. workstations, laptops or servers that are connected to the NIPRNet, violates Department of the Army and Department of Defense Information Assurance (IA) policy (AR 25-2 and DODI 8500.2). It could invalidate or jeopardize your organization's local area network LAN or wide area network WAN accreditation. It could also result in the termination or blocking of your organization's access to the NIPRNet by your local Director of Information Management (DOIM). Users with TC-AIMS II client computers containing wireless LAN capability are strongly urged to disable the capability before connecting to the NIPRNet. Questions regarding this guidance should be directed to the TIS Security Manager.

Warning!

By Steve McNeil, Security Manager

Automated Air Load Planning System (AALPS) Breakaway Configuration is NOT approved for use on the NIPRNet

The TIS JPMO has become aware that some TIS AALPS Breakaway Configuration users may have installed AALPS on information systems (IS) (i.e. workstations, laptops or servers) that are connected to the Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNet). Although the TIS Breakaway Configuration (TC-AIMS II and AALPS) is packaged on one CD with the COE Installer program, AALPS is not authorized for installation on an IS that is connected to the NIPRNet. A strong warning against installing AALPS on an IS connected to the NIPRNet has been added to the TIS Software Installation Plan (SIP) and this article is written to inform users worldwide already in possession of the AALPS Breakaway Configuration.

AALPS was accredited for standalone (not connected to the NIPRNet) operation. AALPS has never been accredited for use on an IS connected to the NIPRNet. Installing AALPS on an IS that is connected to the NIPRNet violates Department of the Army and Department of Defense Information Assurance (IA) policy (AR 25-2 and DODI 8500.2). It could invalidate or jeopardize your organization's local area network LAN or wide area network WAN accreditation. The installation of software not approved for use on the NIPRNet could also result in the termination or blocking of your organization's access to the NIPRNet by your local Director of Information Management (DOIM).

Users who inadvertently installed AALPS on an IS that is connected to the NIPRNet are strongly urged to uninstall the application immediately. AALPS may be installed on any information system that is NOT connected to the NIPRNet.

Questions concerning the AALPS accreditation should be directed to the TIS Security Manager.

TIS Puzzler

By Carla Brown, TIS Functional Analyst
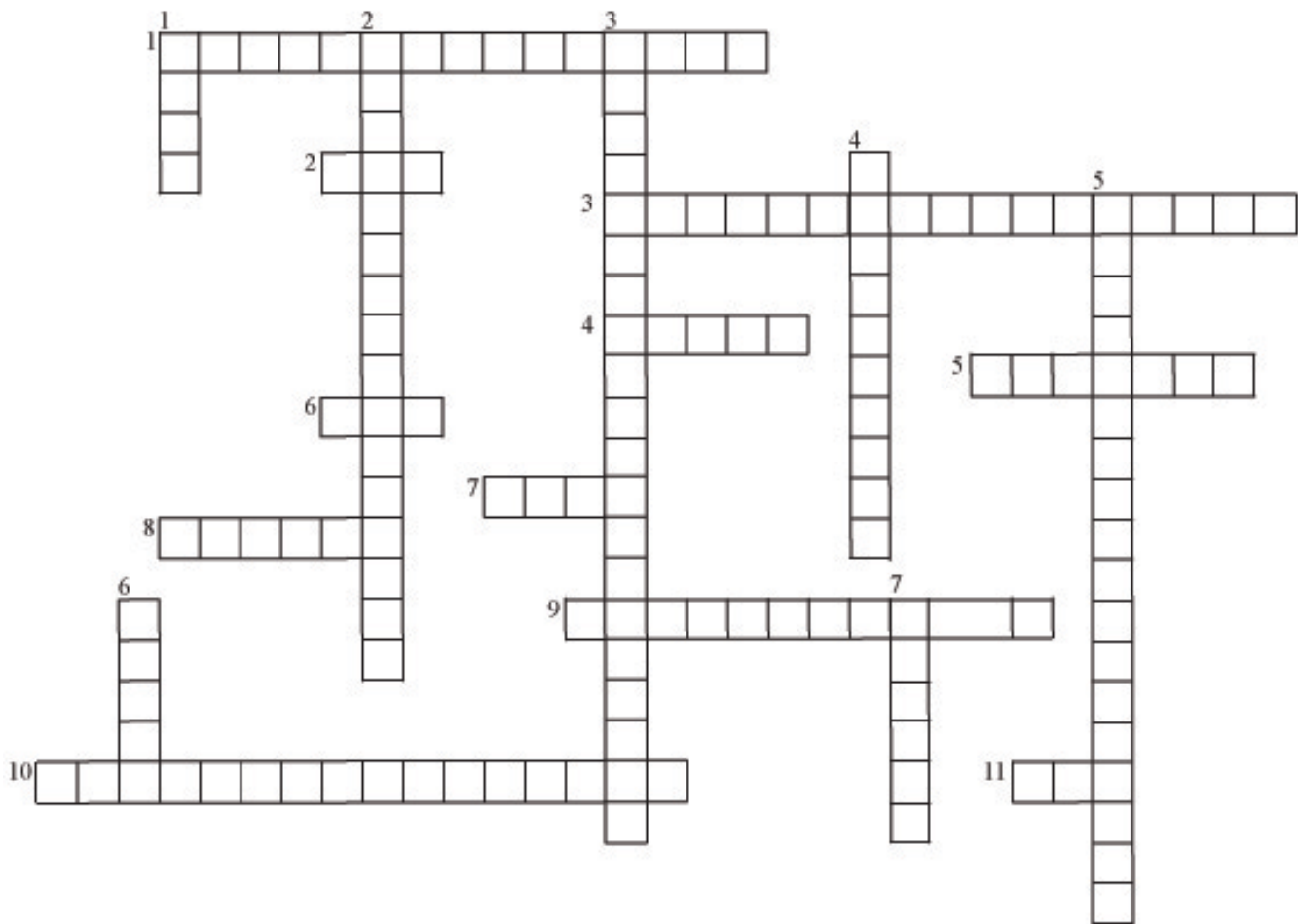
Across

1. First Business Process Area (BPA) in TC-AIMS II
2. Number of supply categories
3. Forth/last BPA TC-AIMS II
4. Time-phased Force and Deployment Data (Acronym)
5. A quadruple container box
6. Unit line number (acronym)
7. United States Army Reserve (Acronym)
8. Beginning point of a shipment
9. UTC (spell out)
10. The use of containers to unitize cargo
11. Commercial Bill of Lading (Acronym)

Down

1. Aerial Port of Debarkation (Acronym)
2. Second Business Process Area (BPA) in TC-AIMS II
3. Third BPA in TC-AIMS II
4. Removal of cargo from container
5. UDL (spell out)
6. Operation Plan (Acronym)
7. Continental U.S. Army (Acronym)

Ft. Bliss Deployment Exercise

Photography by Tom Fleming, Project Manager/COI
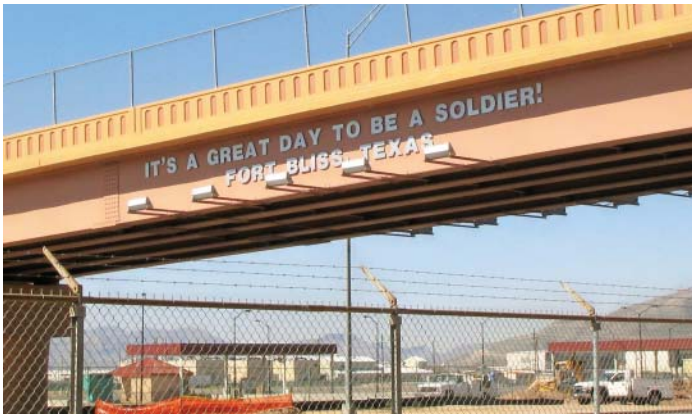
HOME SWEET HOME

DATA PREP

THE DOUBLE CHECK

COORDINATION

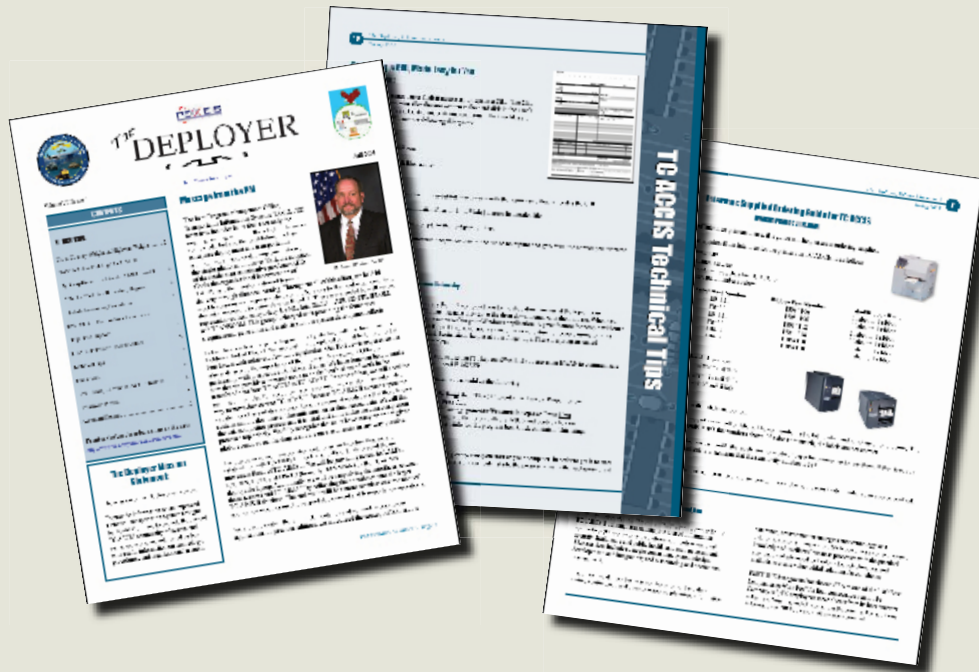**MOVEMENT PLANNING**

DST SUPPORT

AIT OPS

THE MOVE

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If you e-mail the TIS Help Desk using a private e-mail address (e.g., AOL, Comcast or Hotmail), please give your name, location and association with the project. If this information is not included in your e-mail, the resolution process will be delayed until it can be obtained. Please help us so that we may better help you!
Thank you for your cooperation.

Help Desk Toll-Free Number!

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or email: *tishelpdesk@eis.army.mil*